

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A disk array device comprising:  
a plurality of input/output channels that receive data input/output requests from at least one external device;  
5 a plurality of cache memories provided for the corresponding respective input/output channels, each of the cache memories connected to each of the corresponding respective input/output channels;  
a disk drive device;  
a disk control module that performs data input/output to and from the  
10 disk drive device; and  
at least one communication module that communicatively connects the input/output channels with the disk control module.
2. A disk array device according to claim 1, further comprising a  
15 consistency maintaining module that performs a consistency maintaining processing to maintain consistency of data stored in each of the cache memories.
3. A disk array device according to claim 2, wherein the consistency  
20 maintaining module performs the consistency maintaining processing depending on a content of the data input/output request.

4. A disk array device according to claim 3, wherein the consistency maintaining module performs the consistency maintaining processing first depending on a content of the data input/output request, and then a response processing to the external device is executed.

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5. A disk array device according to claim 1, further comprising a control module that controls, upon receiving a data input/output request from the at least one external device, an execution order of a response processing to respond to the at least one external device according to the data input/output request and a consistency maintaining processing to maintain consistency of data stored in each of the cache memories.

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6. A disk array device according to claim 1, wherein, when data stored in one of the cache memories is updated, the consistency maintaining module invalidates data stored in at least another one of the cache memories.

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7. A disk array device according to claim 6, wherein the data stored in the one of the cache memories and the data stored in the at least another one of the cache memories are stored in an identical storage region of the disk drive device.

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8. A disk array device according to claim 1, wherein, when data

stored in one of the cache memories is updated, the consistency maintaining module updates data stored in at least another one of the cache memories.

9. A disk array device according to claim 8, wherein the data stored  
5 in the one of the cache memories and the data stored in the at least another one of the cache memories are stored in an identical storage region of the disk drive device.

10. A disk array device comprising:  
10 a plurality of input/output channels that receive data input/output requests from at least one external device;  
a plurality of cache memories provided for the corresponding respective input/output channels, each of the cache memories connected to each of the corresponding respective input/output channels;  
15 a disk drive device;  
a disk control module that performs data input/output to and from the disk drive device;  
a communication module that communicatively connects the input/output channels with the disk control module;  
20 a consistency maintaining module that performs a consistency maintaining processing to maintain consistency of data stored in each of the cache memories; and

a control module that controls, upon receiving a data input/output request from the at least one external device, an execution order of a response processing to respond to the at least one external device according to the data input/output request and the consistency maintaining processing.

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11. A disk array device according to claim 10, wherein, when data stored in one of the cache memories is updated, the consistency maintaining module invalidates data stored in at least another one of the cache memories.

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12. A disk array device according to claim 11, wherein the data stored in the one of the cache memories and the data stored in the at least another one of the cache memories are stored in an identical storage region of the disk drive device.

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13. A disk array device according to claim 10, wherein, when data stored in one of the cache memories is to be updated, the data stored in the one of the cache memories is updated and data stored in at least another one of the cache memories is also updated.

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14. A disk array device according to claim 14, wherein the data stored in the one of the cache memories and the data stored in the at least another one of the cache memories are stored in an identical storage region of

the disk drive device.

15. A disk array device according to claim 10, wherein a plurality of logical volumes of logical storage regions is set on a storage region of the disk drive device, the data input/output request includes an identifier for identifying at least one of the logical volumes that is a subject of the data input/output request, and further comprising a module that performs the control of the execution order according to the identifier included in the data input/output request.

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16. A disk array device according to claim 10, further comprising:  
a module that connects to another disk array device; and  
a module that, upon receiving a data write request as the data input/output request, writes data designated by the data write request in the disk drive device, and sends a write request for the data to the other disk array device.

17. A disk array device according to claim 16, wherein each of the input/output channels, upon receiving a data write request, operates in one of a write operation mode to write data in the disk drive device and a request send operation mode to send the write request to the other disk array, and further comprising a module that performs the control of the execution order

depending on which one of the write operation mode and the request send operation mode one of the input/output channels that receives the data input/output request is operating in.

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- 10   input/output channels, a disk drive device, a disk control module that performs data input/output to and from the disk drive device, a communication module that communicatively connects the input/output channels with the disk control module, and a consistency maintaining module that performs a consistency maintaining processing to maintain consistency of data stored in
- 15   each of the cache memories, the controlling method comprising the steps of:
- receiving a data input/output request from the at least one external device; and
- controlling an execution order of a response processing to respond to the at least one external device according to the data input/output request and the
- 20   consistency maintaining processing.

19.    A method for controlling a disk array device according to claim 18,

wherein the consistency maintaining processing includes the step of, upon updating data stored in one of the cache memories, invalidating data stored in at least another one of the cache memories wherein the data stored in the at least another one of the cache memories is stored in an identical storage region of the disk drive device that stores the data stored in the one of the cache memory.

20. A method for controlling a disk array device according to claim 18, wherein the consistency maintaining processing includes the step of, upon updating data stored in one of the cache memories, updating data stored in at least another one of the cache memories wherein the data stored in the at least another one of the cache memories is stored in an identical storage region of the disk drive device that stores the data stored in the one of the cache memory.

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21. A method for controlling a disk array device according to claim 18, wherein a plurality of logical volumes of logical storage regions is set on a storage region of the disk drive device, the data input/output request includes an identifier for identifying at least one of the logical volumes that is a subject of the data input/output request, and the control of the execution order is conducted according to the identifier included in the data input/output request.

22. A method for controlling a disk array device according to claim 18,  
wherein the disk array device connects to another disk array device, and  
further comprising the steps of, upon receiving a data write request as the  
5 data input/output request, writing data designated by the data write request  
in the disk drive device, and sending a write request for the data to the other  
disk array device.

23. A method for controlling a disk array device according to claim 22,  
10 wherein each of the input/output channels, upon receiving a data write  
request, operates in one of a write operation mode to write data in the disk  
drive device and a request send operation mode to send the write request to  
the other disk array, and the control of the execution order is conducted  
depending on which one of the write operation mode and the request send  
15 operation mode one of the input/output channels that receives the data  
input/output request is operating in.

24. A storage system comprising:  
at least one external device; and  
20 a disk array device including a plurality of input/output channels that  
receive data input/output requests from at least one external device, a  
plurality of cache memories provided for the corresponding respective



input/output channels, each of the cache memories connected to each of the  
corresponding respective input/output channels, a disk drive device, a disk  
control module that performs data input/output to and from the disk drive  
device, a communication module that communicatively connects the  
5 input/output channels with the disk control module, and a consistency  
maintaining module that performs a consistency maintaining processing to  
maintain consistency of data stored in each of the cache memories,  
wherein the disk array device includes a control module that controls,  
upon receiving a data input/output request from the at least one external  
10 device, an execution order of a response processing to respond to the at least  
one external device according to the data input/output request and the  
consistency maintaining processing.